

**Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 7, 2011**

In Attendance:

Liz Hunter, chair
Greg LoBuono, co-vice chair
Dave Colteryahn
Veronica Craig
Boyd Miller
Ben Strickler, Parks and Recreation Representative

Meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by chairperson Liz Hunter.

Minutes: Meeting minutes for August 3, 2011 were approved with no corrections.

Standing Business

Correspondence and Articles: There were no articles or correspondence this month.

EC Activity Hours: Greg L/1.5, Boyd/2.5, Dave/1, Veronica/6.

Adopt-a-Roadway: The weather cooperated and Veronica was able to do a thorough job this month. She collected two bags of trash, most of which was plastic bottles and food wrappers.

Parks Board Report

Bob reported that the fees for military personnel have been an ongoing issue at Marsh Lake. This was first brought to the attention of City Council, who requested that Parks Board find a resolution. It was decided that discount be given by reducing the entrance fee for both active and reserve military families, rather than waiving the entire admission cost. This plan will be in place for one year, and then the plan will be evaluated to see if it was the best solution.

Parks Department Report

Website Update: Ben included the stats for last month in this meeting's packet. The numbers were down a bit. The website has a fresh look to it. The technology department is working to simplify and "de-layer" it to increase accessibility.

Neighborhood Beautification: This year's plan includes the removal of dead trees and filling in bare spots by planting new trees, both in business and in residential areas.

Miscellaneous: Ben attended Wendi's Tree Academy in Montgomery. He completed his "freshman year" which dealt with such basics as tree anatomy and how to schedule plantings. Boyd will be attending a freshman class elsewhere, and then he and Ben will do the final three classes together.

Commission Reports

Street Tree Inventory: The EC hopes to do use the new computer software to complete an inventory of the Village Green area within the next two months, before the leaves fall.

Other Business

Ordinance Review: The Commission discussed whether to include a list of suggested trees and another list of prohibited trees with Public Works, rather than within the Ordinance itself. That way, when changes to either list need to be made, the process will be much easier. Currently, any changes involve amending the actual Ordinance.

A discussion of the lists followed. Dave had comments on some inconsistencies between the two. He suggested that Wendi be consulted for final approval of several species such as the sycamore, plum, crabapple, and ornamental pears.

Greg L. asked whether the City of Fairfield has any ordinance in place that could force a homeowner to maintain (trim) an overgrown tree or to remove a dead one. Ben explained that the City requires homeowners to trim street trees and those in the right of way to maintain adequate clearances, as specified in the City Ordinance. Removal of dead trees is the homeowner's responsibility.

EAB Management Plan Review: Ben has examined the current plan closely and has found some outdated information. He asked the EC members to review the plan carefully and to note any incorrect or no longer current portions by next month's meeting. For example, language changes should be made in cases where goals have already been met. Additionally, Ben stressed the importance of keeping the ash tree inventory current, since these counts are vital for grant applications, etc.

Asian Longhorned Beetle: Dave suggested that traps be put up in Fairfield to see if this destructive species has arrived in our region. It has been found east of Cincinnati.

Calendar:

EC Meeting – Wednesday, October 5, 2011, 6:00 pm, CAC
Street Tree Inventory -- TBA

Adjournment: at 7:01 pm.